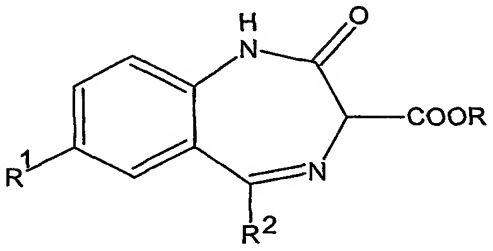
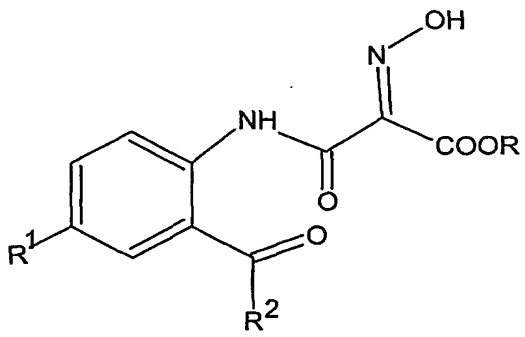
WE CLAIM:

1. A process for the preparation of 1,4 benzodiazepine derivative of formula I in a single step,



Formula I

herein R represents hydrogen, alkyl of C_1-C_5, aryl or arylalkyl; R^1 represents hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl (C_1-C_4), lower alkoxy(C_1-C_4), nitro or amino group; and R^2 represents furyl, thienyl, cyclohexyl, lower alkyl(C_1-C_4) or phenyl, which may be substituted by halogen atom, trifluoromethyl, nitro, lower alkyl(C_1-C_4) or lower alkoxy(C_1-C_4) group, the process comprising reacting an oxime of formula II,



Formula II

wherein R, R^1 and R^2 are as defined above, with a reducing agent, in the presence of an acid catalyst.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein R represents methyl or ethyl, R^1 represents chlorine and R^2 represents phenyl.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the reducing agent comprises one or more of metal/acids and hydrogenation catalysts.

4. The process of claim 3, wherein the metal is a transition metal.

5. The process of claim 4, wherein the transition metal comprises one or more of Zn, Fe, and Sn.

6. The process of claim 3, wherein the acid comprises one or more of hydrochloric acid, acetic acid and formic acid.

7. The process of claim 3, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst comprises one or more of Raney nickel and rhodium complexes.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a hydrogen gas.

9. The process of claim 8, wherein the pressure of hydrogen gas ranges from about 1.0 to about 7.0 kg/cm^2 .

10. The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a suitable solvent.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the solvent comprises one or more of alcohols, ethers, chlorinated hydrocarbons, esters, cyclic ethers, ketones, nitriles, dipolar aprotic solvents and mixtures thereof.

12. The process of claim 11, wherein the alcohol comprises one or more of methanol, ethanol, isoprapanol, butanol, and mixtures thereof.

13. The process of claim 11, wherein the ether comprises one or more of diethylether, diisopropylether, and dimethoxyethane.

14. The process of claim 11, wherein the chlorinated hydrocarbon comprises one or more of methylene chloride, ethylene dichloride, and carbon tetrachloride.

15. The process of claim 11, wherein the esters comprises one or more of ethylacetate and isopropylacetate.

16. The process of claim 11, wherein the cyclic ethers comprises one or more of dioxane and tetrahydrofuran.

17. The process of claim 11, wherein the ketone comprises one or more of acetone and methylisobutyl ketone.

18. The process of claim 11, wherein the nitrile is acetonitrile.

19. The process of claim 11, wherein the dipolar aprotic solvents comprises one or more of dimethylformamide and dimethylsulfoxide.

20. The process of claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst comprises one or more of organic acids and inorganic acids.

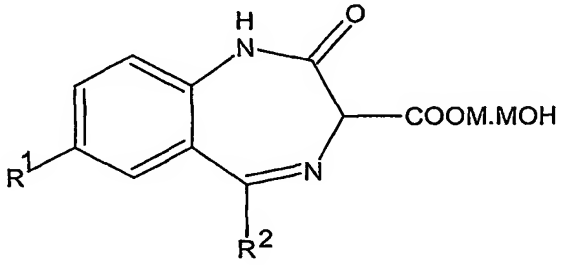
21. The process of claim 20, wherein the organic acid comprises one or more of acetic acid, formic acid, propionic acid, and mixtures thereof.

22. The process of claim 20, wherein the inorganic acid comprises one or more of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, and mixtures thereof.

23. The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature from about 35°C to about 75°C.

24. The process of claim 23, wherein the reaction is carried out a temperature from about 45°C to about 65°C.

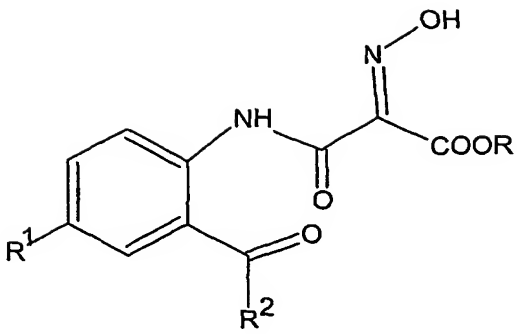
25. The process of claim 1 further comprising converting the compound of Formula I to a salt of Formula IV,



Formula IV

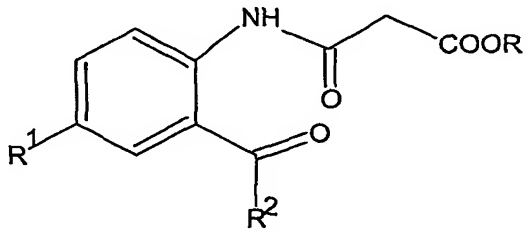
wherein M represents an alkali metal acid; R^1 represents hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl(C_1-C_4), lower alkoxy(C_1-C_4), nitro or amino group; and R^2 represents furyl, thienyl, cyclohexyl, lower alkyl(C_1-C_4) or phenyl, which may be substituted by halogen atom, trifluoromethyl, nitro, lower alkyl(C_1-C_4) or lower alkoxy (C_1-C_4) group.

26. The process for preparation of compound of formula II,



Formula II

wherein R represents hydrogen, alkyl of C_1-C_5, aryl or arylalkyl; R^1 represents hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl (C_1-C_4), lower alkoxy(C_1-C_4), nitro or amino group; and R^2 represents furyl, thienyl, cyclohexyl, lower alkyl(C_1-C_4) or phenyl, which may be substituted by halogen atom, trifluoromethyl, nitro, lower alkyl (C_1-C_4) or lower alkoxy(C_1-C_4) group, the process comprising nitrosating an amide of formula III,



Formula III

wherein R, R^1 and R^2 are as defined above, with sodium nitrite in the presence of a strong inorganic acid.

27. The process of claim 25, wherein the inorganic acid comprises one or more of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydrogenthiocyanide, and mixtures thereof.

28. The process of claim 25, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a solvent.

29. The process of claim 27, wherein the solvent comprises one or more of alcohols, ethers, chlorinated hydrocarbons, esters, dipolar aprotic solvents, water, and mixtures thereof.

30. The process of claim 28, wherein the alcohol comprises one or more of methanol, ethanol, isoprapanol, butanol, and mixtures thereof.

31. The process of claim 28, wherein the ether comprises one or more of dimethoxyethane, dioxane, and tetrahydrofuran.

32. The process of claim 28, wherein the chlorinated hydrocarbon comprises one or more of methylene dichloride and ethylene dichloride.

33. The process of claim 28, wherein the ester comprises one or more of ethylacetate and isopropylacetate.

34. The process of claim 28, wherein the dipolar aprotic solvent comprises one or more of dimethylsulfoxide and dimethylformamide.

35. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of 1,4-benzodiazepine derivative obtained by the process of claim 1; and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.